

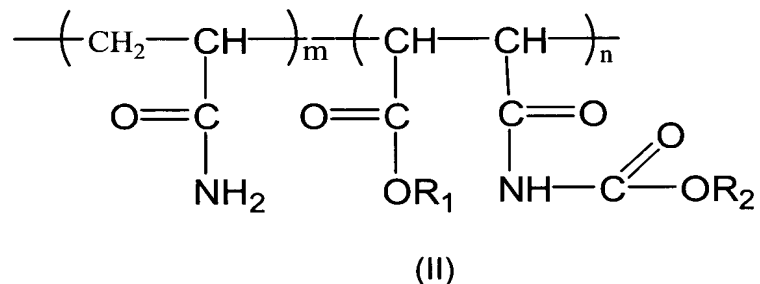
Appl. No. 10/736,639  
Amendment dated: January 19, 2006  
Reply to OA of: December 19, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-8(canceled).

9(original). A bicarboxyl copolymer of formula (II):



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently H, alkali metal, or  $\text{NH}_4$ ; m is an integral from 10 to 5000; and n is an integral from 10 to 3000.

10(original). The bicarboxyl copolymer as claimed in claim 9, wherein said alkali metal is sodium or potassium.

Claims 11-20(canceled).

21(new). The bicarboxyl copolymer as claimed in claim 9, wherein said bicarboxyl copolymer is used to disperse ceramic powder in slurry.

22(new). The bicarboxyl copolymer as claimed in claim 21, wherein said ceramic powder is barium titanate powder.

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23(new). The bicarboxyl copolymer as claimed in claim 21, wherein said ceramic powder is aluminum oxide powder.

24(new). The bicarboxyl copolymer as claimed in claim 21, wherein said ceramic powder is zirconium oxide powder.